

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DEL MAR SEAFOODS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

No. C 07-02952 WHA

v.

BARRY COHEN, CHRIS COHEN (aka  
CHRISTINE COHEN), *in personam* and  
F/V POINT LOMA, Official Number 515298,  
a 1968 steel-hulled, 126-gross ton, 70.8 foot  
long fishing vessel, her engines, tackle,  
furniture apparel, etc., *in rem*, and DOES 1–10,

Defendants.

**CASE MANAGEMENT  
ORDER AND REFERENCE TO  
ADR UNIT FOR MEDIATION**

After a case management conference, the Court enters the following order pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (“FRCP”) and Civil Local Rule 16-10:

1. All initial disclosures under FRCP 26 must be completed by **SEPTEMBER 7, 2007**, on pain of preclusion under FRCP 37(c).
2. Leave to add any new parties or pleading amendments must be sought by **OCTOBER 31, 2007**.
3. All unserved defendants and any Doe defendants must be formally identified and served by **SEPTEMBER 21, 2007**.
4. The non-expert discovery cut-off date shall be **JANUARY 11, 2008**.

- 1 5. The last date for designation of expert testimony and disclosure of full expert reports  
2 under FRCP 26(a)(2) as to any issue on which a party has the burden of proof  
3 (“opening reports”) shall be **JANUARY 11, 2008**. Within **FOURTEEN CALENDAR DAYS**  
4 thereafter, all other parties may disclose responsive expert testimony with full expert  
5 reports responsive to opening reports (“opposition reports”). Within  
6 **SEVEN CALENDAR DAYS** thereafter, the opening parties may disclose any reply reports  
7 limited solely to rebutting specific material in opposition reports. Reply reports must  
8 be limited to true rebuttal and should be very brief. They should not add new material  
9 that should have been placed in the opening report. The cutoff for all expert discovery  
10 shall be **FOURTEEN CALENDAR DAYS** after the deadline for reply reports. In aid of  
11 preparing an opposition or reply report, a responding party may depose the adverse  
12 expert sufficiently before the deadline for the opposition or reply report so as to use the  
13 testimony in preparing the response. Experts must make themselves readily available  
14 for such depositions. Alternatively, the responding party can elect to depose the expert  
15 later in the expert-discovery period. An expert, however, may be deposed only once  
16 unless the expert is used for different opening and/or opposition reports, in which case  
17 the expert may be deposed independently on the subject matter of each report. At least  
18 **28 CALENDAR DAYS** before the due date for opening reports, each party shall serve a  
19 list of issues on which it will offer any expert testimony in its case-in-chief (including  
20 from non-retained experts). This is so that all parties will be timely able to obtain  
21 counter-experts on the listed issues and to facilitate the timely completeness of all  
22 expert reports. Failure to so disclose may result in preclusion.
- 23 6. As to damages studies, the cut-off date for *past damages* will be as of the expert report  
24 (or such earlier date as the expert may select). In addition, the experts may try to  
25 project *future damages* (*i.e.*, after the cut-off date) if the substantive standards for  
26 future damages can be met. With timely leave of Court or by written stipulation, the  
27 experts may update their reports (with supplemental reports) to a date closer to the time  
28 of trial.

- 1 7. At trial, the direct testimony of experts will be limited to the matters disclosed in their  
2 reports. Omitted material may not ordinarily be added on direct examination. This  
3 means the reports must be complete and sufficiently detailed. Illustrative animations,  
4 diagrams, charts and models may be used on direct examination only if they were part  
5 of the expert's report, with the exception of simple drawings and tabulations that  
6 plainly illustrate what is already in the report, which can be drawn by the witness at  
7 trial or otherwise shown to the jury. If cross-examination fairly opens the door,  
8 however, an expert may go beyond the written report on cross-examination and/or  
9 redirect examination. By written stipulation, of course, all sides may relax these  
10 requirements.
- 11 8. To head off a recurring problem, experts lacking percipient knowledge should avoid  
12 vouching for the credibility of witnesses, *i.e.*, whose version of the facts in dispute is  
13 correct. This means that they may not, for example, testify that based upon a review of  
14 fact depositions and other material supplied by counsel, a police officer did (or did not)  
15 violate standards. Rather, the expert should be asked for his or her opinion based —  
16 explicitly — upon an assumed fact scenario. This will make clear that the witness is  
17 not attempting to make credibility and fact findings and thereby to invade the province  
18 of the jury. Of course, a qualified expert can testify to relevant customs, usages,  
19 practices, recognized standards of conduct, and other specialized matters beyond the  
20 ken of a lay jury. This subject is addressed further in the trial guidelines referenced in  
21 paragraph 15 below.
- 22 9. The last date to file dispositive motions shall be **FEBRUARY 28, 2008**. No dispositive  
23 motions shall be heard more than 35 days *after* this deadline, *i.e.*, if any party waits  
24 until the last day to file, then the parties must adhere to the 35-day track in order to  
25 avoid pressure on the trial date.
- 26 10. The **FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE** shall be at **2:00 P.M. on MAY 5, 2008**. For the  
27 form of submissions for the final pretrial conference and trial, please see paragraph 15  
28 below.

- 1 11. A **BENCH TRIAL** shall begin on **MAY 19, 2008**, at **7:30 A.M.**, in Courtroom 9,  
2 19th Floor, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, 94102. The trial  
3 schedule and time limits shall be set at the final pretrial conference. Although almost  
4 all trials proceed on the date scheduled, it may be necessary on occasion for a case to  
5 trail, meaning the trial may commence a few days or even a few weeks after the date  
6 stated above, due to calendar congestion and the need to give priority to criminal trials.  
7 Counsel and the parties should plan accordingly, including advising witnesses.
- 8 12. Counsel may not stipulate around the foregoing dates without Court approval.
- 9 13. While the Court encourages the parties to engage in settlement discussions, please do  
10 not ask for any extensions on the ground of settlement discussions or on the ground that  
11 the parties experienced delays in scheduling settlement conferences, mediation or ENE.  
12 The parties should proceed to prepare their cases for trial. No continuance (even if  
13 stipulated) shall be granted on the ground of incomplete preparation without competent  
14 and detailed declarations setting forth good cause.
- 15 14. To avoid any misunderstanding with respect to the final pretrial conference and trial,  
16 the Court wishes to emphasize that all filings and appearances must be made — on pain  
17 of dismissal, default or other sanction — unless and until a dismissal fully resolving the  
18 case is received. It will not be enough to inform the clerk that a settlement in principle  
19 has been reached or to lodge a partially executed settlement agreement or to lodge a  
20 fully executed agreement (or dismissal) that resolves less than the entire case. Where,  
21 however, a fully-executed settlement agreement clearly and fully disposing of the entire  
22 case is lodged reasonably in advance of the pretrial conference or trial and only a  
23 ministerial act remains, the Court will arrange a telephone conference to work out an  
24 alternate procedure pending a formal dismissal.
- 25 15. If you have not already done so, please read and follow the “Supplemental Order to  
26 Order Setting Initial Case Management Conference in Civil Cases Before Judge  
27 William Alsup” and other orders issued by the Clerk’s office when this action was  
28 commenced. Among other things, the supplemental order explains when submissions


are to go to the Clerk's Office (the general rule) versus when submissions may go directly to chambers (rarely). With respect to the final pretrial conference and trial, please read and follow the "Guidelines For Trial and Final Pretrial Conference in Civil Bench Cases Before The Honorable William Alsup." All orders and guidelines referenced in the paragraph are available on the district court's website at <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov>. The website also includes other guidelines for attorney's fees motions and the necessary form of attorney time records for cases before Judge Alsup. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may contact Deputy Clerk Dawn K. Toland at (415) 522-2020 to learn how to pick up a hard copy.

16. All pretrial disclosures under FRCP 26(a)(3) and objections required by FRCP 26(a)(3) must be made on the schedule established by said rule.

17. This matter is hereby **REFERRED** to the **ADR UNIT** for **MEDIATION**.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: September 5, 2007.

  
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WILLIAM ALSUP  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE